

HUMAN G-PROTEIN COUPLED RECEPTORS



This Application is a continuation of U.S. Application no. 08/852,824, filed May 7, 1997, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Background of the Invention

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to newly identified polynucleotides, polypeptides encoded by such polynucleotides, the use of such polynucleotides and polypeptides, as well as the production of such polynucleotides and polypeptides. More particularly, the polypeptides of the present invention are a human EBV-induced G-protein coupled receptor (EBI-2) and a human EDG-1-like G-protein coupled receptor, sometimes hereinafter referred to singularly as "GPR" or "GPCR" and collectively as "GPRs." The invention also relates to inhibiting the action of such polypeptides.

Related Art

At least nine genes have been identified that are apparently activated in response to an Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) infection. One of two novel genes also identified in such studies of EBV infections was a novel GPCR-like cDNA molecule designated EBV-induced G-protein coupled receptor (EBI)-1.

Additionally, previously identified was an endothelium-differentiation gene (EDG) that was obtained from PMA-simulated human endothelial cells. Rat and sheep homologs of EDG-1 have been identified, which are also G-protein coupled receptors.

It is well established that many medically significant biological processes are mediated by proteins participating in signal transduction pathways that involve G-proteins and/or second messengers, e.g., cAMP (Lefkowitz, *Nature* 351:353-354 (1991)). Herein these proteins are referred to as proteins participating in pathways-with G-proteins or PPG proteins. Some examples of these proteins include the GPC receptors, such as those for adrenergic agents and dopamine

(Kobilka, B.K., *et al.*, *PNAS* 84:46-50 (1987); Kobilka, B.K., *et al.*, *Science* 238:650-656 (1987); Bunzow, J.R., *et al.*, *Nature* 336:783-787 (1988)), G-proteins themselves, effector proteins, e.g., phospholipase C, adenyl cyclase, and phosphodiesterase, and actuator proteins, e.g., protein kinase A and protein kinase C (Simon, M.I., *et al.*, *Science* 252:802-8 (1991)).

For example, in one form of signal transduction, the effect of hormone binding is activation of an enzyme, adenylate cyclase, inside the cell. Enzyme activation by hormones is dependent on the presence of the nucleotide GTP, and GTP also influences hormone binding. G-protein connects the hormone receptors to adenylate cyclase. G-protein was shown to exchange GTP for bound GDP when activated by hormone receptors. The GTP-carrying form then binds to an activated adenylate cyclase. Hydrolysis of GTP to GDP, catalyzed by the G-protein itself, returns the G-protein to its basal, inactive form. Thus, the G-protein serves a dual role, as an intermediate that relays the signal from receptor to effector, and as a clock that controls the duration of the signal.

The membrane protein gene superfamily of G-protein coupled receptors has been characterized as having seven putative transmembrane domains. The domains are believed to represent transmembrane α -helices connected by extracellular or cytoplasmic loops. A function G-protein is a trimer which consists of a variable alpha subunit coupled to a much more tightly-associated and constant beta and gamma subunits. A broad range of ligands (more than twenty) have been identified which function through GPCRs. In general, binding of an appropriate ligand to a GPCR leads to the activation of the receptor. G-protein coupled receptors include a wide range of biologically active receptors, such as hormone, viral, growth factor and neuropeptidergic receptors. Such an activated receptor initiates the regulatory cycle of the G-protein. This cycle consists of GTP exchange for GDP, dissociation of the alpha and beta/gamma subunits, activation of the second messenger pathway by a complex of GTP and the alpha subunit of the G-protein, and return to the resting state by GTP hydrolysis via the innate GTP-ase activity of the G-protein alpha subunit A.

G-protein coupled receptors have been characterized as including these seven conserved hydrophobic stretches of about 20 to 30 amino acids, connecting

at least eight divergent hydrophilic loops. The G-protein family of coupled receptors includes dopamine receptors which bind to neuroleptic drugs used for treating psychotic and neurological disorders. Other examples of members of this family include calcitonin, adrenergic, endothelin, cAMP, adenosine, muscarinic, acetylcholine, serotonin, histamine, thrombin, kinin, follicle stimulating hormone, opsins and rhodopsins, odorant, cytomegalovirus receptors, etc.

Most GPRs have single conserved cysteine residues in each of the first two extracellular loops which form disulfide bonds that are believed to stabilize functional protein structure. The 7 transmembrane regions are designated as TM1, TM2, TM3, TM4, TM5, TM6, and TM7. TM3 is also implicated in signal transduction.

Phosphorylation and lipidation (palmitylation or farnesylation) of cysteine residues can influence signal transduction of some GPRs. Most GPRs contain potential phosphorylation sites within the third cytoplasmic loop and/or the carboxy terminus. For several GPRs, such as the β -adrenoreceptor, phosphorylation by protein kinase A and/or specific receptor kinases mediates receptor desensitization.

The ligand binding sites of GPRs are believed to comprise a hydrophilic socket formed by several GPR transmembrane domains, which socket is surrounded by hydrophobic residues of the GPRs. The hydrophilic side of each GPR transmembrane helix is postulated to face inward and form the polar ligand binding site. TM3 has been implicated in several GPRs as having a ligand binding site, such as including the TM3 aspartate residue. Additionally, TM5 serines, a TM6 asparagine and TM6 or TM7 phenylalanines or tyrosines-are also implicated-in ligand binding.

GPRs can be intracellularly coupled by heterotrimeric G-proteins to various intracellular enzymes, ion channels and transporters (see, Johnson *et al.*, *Endoc. Rev.* 10:317-331 (1989)). Different G-protein α -subunits preferentially stimulate particular effectors to modulate various biological functions in a cell. Phosphorylation of cytoplasmic residues of GPRs has been identified as an important mechanism for the regulation of G-protein coupling of some GPRs.

G-protein coupled receptors are found in numerous sites within a mammalian host. For example, dopamine is a critical neurotransmitter in the central nervous system and is a G-protein coupled receptor ligand.

Summary of the Invention

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there are provided novel polypeptides, as well as antisense analogs thereof and biologically active and diagnostically or therapeutically useful fragments and derivatives thereof. The polypeptides of the present invention are of human origin.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there are provided isolated nucleic acid molecules, including mRNAs, DNAs, cDNAs, genomic DNA as well as antisense analogs thereof and biologically active and diagnostically or therapeutically useful fragments thereof.

In accordance with a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for producing such polypeptides by recombinant techniques which comprises culturing recombinant prokaryotic and/or eukaryotic host cells, containing a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide of the present invention, under conditions promoting expression of said protein and subsequent recovery of said protein.

In accordance with yet a further aspect of the present invention, there are provided antibodies against such polypeptides.

In accordance with another embodiment, there is provided a process for using one or more of the receptors according to the invention to screen for receptor antagonists and/or agonists and/or receptor ligands.

In accordance with still another embodiment of the present invention there is provided a process of using such agonists to activate the polypeptide of the present invention for the treatment of conditions related to the underexpression of the polypeptide of the present invention.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention there is provided a process of using such antagonists for inhibiting the polypeptide of the

present invention for treating conditions associated with overexpression of the polypeptide of the present invention.

In accordance with yet another aspect of the present invention there is provided non-naturally occurring synthetic, isolated and/or recombinant polypeptides which are fragments, consensus fragments and/or sequences having conservative amino acid substitutions, of at least one transmembrane domain, such that the polypeptides of the present invention may bind ligands, or which may also modulate, quantitatively or qualitatively, ligand binding to the polypeptide of the present invention.

In accordance with still another aspect of the present invention there are provided synthetic or recombinant polypeptides, conservative substitution derivatives thereof, antibodies, anti-idiotype antibodies, compositions and methods that can be useful as potential modulators of G-protein coupled receptor function, by binding to ligands or modulating ligand binding, due to their expected biological properties, which may be used in diagnostic, therapeutic and/or research applications.

In accordance with another object of the present invention, there is provided synthetic, isolated or recombinant polypeptides which are designed to inhibit or mimic various GPRs or fragments thereof, as receptor types and subtypes.

In accordance with yet another object of the present invention, there is provided a diagnostic assay for detecting a disease or susceptibility to a disease related to a mutation in a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide of the present invention.

These and other aspects of the present invention should be apparent to those skilled in the art from the teachings herein.

Brief Description of the Figures

The following drawings are illustrative of embodiments of the invention and are not meant to limit the scope of the invention as encompassed by the claims.

Figures 1A, 1B, and 1C show the cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) and the corresponding deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:2) of the EBV-induced G-protein coupled receptor of the present invention. The polynucleotide sequence contains a 2249 nucleotide sequence which encodes a 342 amino acid ORF. In Figures 1A-1C, the standard one-letter abbreviation for amino acids is used to illustrate the deduced amino acid sequence. Sequencing was performed using a 373 Automated DNA sequencer (Applied Biosystems, Inc.). Sequencing accuracy is predicted to be greater than 97% accurate.

Figure 2 is an amino acid sequence comparison between the EBV-induced (EBI-2) G-Protein Coupled Receptor (upper line, see SEQ ID NO:2) and the human EBI-1 G-Protein Coupled Receptor (lower line, SEQ ID NO: 17). The standard one letter abbreviations are used to represent the amino acid residues of the amino acid sequences illustrated. The EBI-2 polypeptide according to the invention shows approximately 25% identity and 49% similarity to the amino acid sequence of the EBI-1 gene over an approximately 350 amino acid stretch.

Figures 3A and 3B show the cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:3) and the corresponding deduced- amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:4) of the EDG-1-like G-protein coupled receptor of the present invention. The polynucleotide sequence contains a 1637 nucleotide sequence which encodes a 384 amino acid ORF. In Figures 3A and 3B, the standard one-letter abbreviation for amino acids is used to illustrate the deduced amino acid sequence. Sequencing was performed using a 373 Automated DNA sequencer (Applied Biosystems, Inc.). Sequencing accuracy is predicted to be greater than 97% accurate.

Figure 4 is an amino acid sequence comparison between the EDG-1-like G-Protein Coupled Receptor (upper line, see SEQ ID NO:4) and the human EDG-1 orphan G-Protein Coupled Receptor (lower line, SEQ ID NO:18). The standard one-letter abbreviations are used to represent the amino acid residues of the amino acid sequences illustrated. The EDG-1-like polypeptide according to the invention shows approximately 54% identity and 73% similarity to the amino acid sequence of the human EDG-1 orphan G-protein Coupled Receptor gene over two regions totaling approximately 120 amino acids.

Detailed Description of the Invention

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, there is provided an isolated nucleic acid (polynucleotide) which encode for the mature polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence of Figures 1A-1C (SEQ ID NO: 2) or for the

mature polypeptide encoded by the cDNA of the clone deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-2209, as ATCC Deposit No. 209003 on 4/28/97.

A polynucleotide encoding an EBI-2 polypeptide of the present invention may be found in a cDNA library from umbilical vein endothelial cells, neutrophil leukocyte cells, and corpus colosum cells. The polynucleotide of this invention was discovered in a cDNA library derived from umbilical vein endothelial cells. As described above, it is structurally related to the G protein-coupled receptor family. It contains an open reading frame encoding a protein of 343 amino acid residues.

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, there is provided an isolated nucleic acid (polynucleotide) which encodes for the mature polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence of Figures 3A and 3B (SEQ ID NO:4) or for the mature polypeptide encoded by the cDNA of the clone deposited as ATCC Deposit No. 209004 on 4/28/97.

A polynucleotide encoding an EDG-1-like G-protein coupled receptor polypeptide of the present invention may be found in an activated neutrophil cDNA library, cyclohexamine-treated Raji cells, the RSR;11 bone marrow cell line, activated T-cells, tonsils, and CD34-positive cord blood cells. Northern blot analyses indicate that the EDG-1-like receptor gene is expressed primarily in leukocytes, but expression may also be observed in placenta, spleen, thymus, lung and pancreas tissue. The polynucleotide of this invention was discovered in a cDNA library derived from activated neutrophils. As described above, it is structurally related to the G protein-coupled receptor family. It contains an open reading frame encoding a protein of 384 amino acid residues.

As noted above, a great deal of the importance attributed to GPCR molecules such as those of the presently claimed invention lies in the diversity of biological functions in which they participate. For example, it is thought that, upon release from the alpha subunit, the beta/gamma subunit may also play a functional role in the regulation of signal transduction by activating the arachidonic acid signal transduction pathway via the activation of phospholipase A₂. In addition, GPCR molecules and their associated G-proteins have been implicated in the coupling of visual pigments to cGMP phosphodiesterase, phosphatidyl inositol (PI) turnover, adenylyl cyclase signal channels and other integral membrane enzymes to transporter proteins. As a result, it is apparent that novel GPCR molecules may prove useful in a wide variety of pharmaceutical applications including research and development. For example, target based screens for small molecules and other such pharmacologically valuable factors may be based on activating a given GPCR. It has also been observed that short peptides may function by mimicking the GPCR (termed receptorimetics). Furthermore, monoclonal antibodies raised against such factors may prove useful as therapeutics in a number of capacities. Potential therapeutic and/or diagnostic applications for such a factor may include such diverse clinical presentations as heart disease, mental illness, cancer, atherosclerosis, restenosis, Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, and a number of others.

Accordingly, the polynucleotides of the present invention may be in the form of RNA or in the form of DNA, which DNA includes cDNA, genomic DNA, and synthetic DNA. The DNA may be double-stranded or single-stranded, and if single stranded may be the coding strand or non-coding (anti-sense) strand. The coding sequence which encodes the mature EBI-2 polypeptide may be identical to the coding sequence shown in Figures 1A-1C (SEQ ID NO:1) or that of the deposited clone or may be a different coding sequence which coding sequence, as a result of the redundancy or degeneracy of the genetic code, encodes the same mature polypeptide as the DNA of Figures 1A-1C (SEQ ID NO:1) or the deposited cDNA. Similarly, the coding sequence which encodes the mature EDG-1-like G-protein coupled receptor polypeptide may be identical to the coding sequence shown in Figures 3A and 3B (SEQ ID NO: 3) or that of the deposited

clone or may be a different coding sequence which coding sequence, as a result of the redundancy or degeneracy of the genetic code, encodes the same mature polypeptide as the DNA of Figures 3A and 3B (SEQ ID NO:3) or the deposited cDNA.

The polynucleotides which encode either (a) the mature EBI-2 polypeptide of Figures 1A-1C (SEQ ID NO:2) or the mature EBI-2 polypeptide encoded by the deposited cDNA, or (b) the mature EDG-1-like G-protein coupled receptor polypeptide of Figures 3A and 3B (SEQ ID NO:4) or the mature EDG-1-like G-protein coupled receptor polypeptide encoded by the deposited cDNA may include: only the coding sequence for the mature polypeptide; the coding sequence for the mature polypeptide and additional coding sequence such as a leader or secretory sequence or a proprotein sequence; the coding sequence for the mature polypeptide (and optionally additional coding sequence) and non-coding sequence, such as introns or non-coding sequence 5' and/or 3' of the coding sequence for the mature polypeptide.

Thus, the term "polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide" encompasses a polynucleotide which includes only coding sequence for the polypeptide as well as a polynucleotide which includes additional coding and/or non-coding sequence.

The present invention further relates to variants of the hereinabove described polynucleotides which encode for fragments, analogs and derivatives of (a) the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence of Figures 1A-1C (SEQ ID NO:2) or the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA of the deposited clone, or (2) the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence of Figures 3A and 3B (SEQ ID NO:4) or the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA of the deposited clone. The variant of either of these two polynucleotides may be a naturally occurring allelic variant of the polynucleotide or a non-naturally occurring variant of the polynucleotide.

Thus, the present invention includes polynucleotides encoding the same mature polypeptide as shown in Figures 1A-1C (SEQ ID NO:2) or the same mature polypeptide encoded by the cDNA of the deposited clone as well as variants of such polynucleotides which variants encode for a fragment, derivative or analog of the polypeptide of Figures 1A-1C (SEQ ID NO:2) or the polypeptide

encoded by the cDNA of the deposited clone. Such nucleotide variants include deletion variants, substitution variants and addition or insertion variants.

Likewise, the present invention includes polynucleotides encoding the same mature polypeptide as shown in Figures 3A and 3B (SEQ ID NO:4) or the same mature polypeptide encoded by the cDNA of the deposited clone as well as variants of such polynucleotides which variants encode for a fragment, derivative or analog of the polypeptide of Figures 3A and 3B (SEQ ID NO:4) or the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA of the deposited clone. Such nucleotide variants include deletion variants, substitution variants and addition or insertion variants.

As hereinabove indicated, the polynucleotide may have a coding sequence which is a naturally occurring allelic variant of the coding sequence shown in Figures 1A-1C (SEQ ID NO:1) or of the coding sequence of the deposited clone. Also, as hereinabove indicated, the polynucleotide may have a coding sequence which is a naturally occurring allelic variant of the coding sequence shown in Figures 3A and 3B (SEQ ID NO:3) or of the coding sequence of the deposited clone. As known in the art, an allelic variant is an alternate form of a polynucleotide sequence which may have a substitution, deletion or addition of one or more nucleotides, which does not substantially alter the function of the encoded polypeptide.

The present invention also includes polynucleotides, wherein the coding sequence for the mature polypeptide may be fused in the same reading frame to a polynucleotide sequence which aids in expression and secretion of a polypeptide from a host cell, for example, a leader sequence which functions as a secretory sequence for controlling transport of a polypeptide from the cell. The polypeptide having a leader sequence is a preprotein and may have the leader sequence cleaved by the host cell to form the mature form of the polypeptide. The polynucleotides may also code for a proprotein which is the mature protein plus additional 51 amino acid residues. A mature protein having a prosequence is a proprotein and is an inactive form of the protein. Once the prosequence is cleaved an active mature protein remains.

Thus, for example, the polynucleotide of the present invention may encode a mature protein, or a protein having a prosequence or for a protein having both a prosequence and a presequence (leader sequence).

The polynucleotides of the present invention may also have the coding sequence fused in frame to a marker sequence which allows for purification of the polypeptide of the present invention. The marker sequence may be a hexahistidine tag supplied by a pQE-9 vector to provide for purification of the mature polypeptide fused to the marker in the case of a bacterial host, or, for example, the marker sequence may be a hemagglutinin (HA) tag when a mammalian host, e.g. COS-7 cells, is used. The HA tag corresponds to an epitope derived from the influenza hemagglutinin protein (Wilson, I., et al., *Cell* 37:767 (1984)).

The term "gene" means the segment of DNA involved in producing a polypeptide chain; it includes regions preceding and following the coding region (leader and trailer) as well as intervening sequences (introns) between individual coding segments (exons).

Fragments of the full length gene of the present invention may be used as hybridization probes for a cDNA or a genomic library to isolate the full length DNA and to isolate other DNAs which have a high sequence similarity to the gene or similar biological activity. Probes of this type preferably have at least 10, preferably at least 15, and even more preferably at least 30 bases and may contain, for example, at least 50 or more bases. In fact, probes of this type having at least up to 150 bases or greater may be preferably utilized. The probe may also be used to identify a DNA clone corresponding to a full length transcript and a genomic clone or clones that contain the complete gene including regulatory and promotor regions, exons and introns. An example of a screen comprises isolating the coding region of the gene by using the known DNA sequence to synthesize an oligonucleotide probe. Labeled oligonucleotides having a sequence complementary or identical to that of the gene or portion of the gene sequences of the present invention are used to screen a library of genomic DNA to determine which members of the library the probe hybridizes to.

It is also appreciated that such probes can be and are preferably labeled with an analytically detectable reagent to facilitate identification of the probe.

Useful reagents include but are not limited to radioactivity, fluorescent dyes, or enzymes capable of catalyzing the formation of a detectable product. The probes are thus useful to isolate complementary copies of DNA from other sources or to screen such sources for related sequences.

The present invention further relates to polynucleotides which hybridize to the hereinabove-described sequences if there is at least 70%, preferably at least 90%, and more preferably at least 95% identity between the sequences. (As indicated above, 70% identity would include within such definition a 70 bps fragment taken from a 100 bp polynucleotide, for example.) The present invention particularly relates to polynucleotides which hybridize under stringent conditions to the hereinabove-described polynucleotides. As herein used, the term "stringent conditions" means hybridization will occur only if there is at least 95% and preferably at least 97% identity between the sequences. The polynucleotides which hybridize to the hereinabove described polynucleotides in a preferred embodiment encode enzymes which either retain substantially the same biological function or activity as the mature polypeptide encoded by the DNA of Figures 1 A-C, 3A and 3B (SEQ ID NOS:2 and 4, respectively). In referring to identity in the case of hybridization, as known in the art, such identity refers to complementarity of polynucleotide segments.

Alternatively, the polynucleotide may have at least 15 bases, preferably at least 30 bases, and more preferably at least 50 bases which hybridize to any part of a polynucleotide of the present invention and which has an identity thereto, as hereinabove described, and which may or may not retain activity. For example, such polynucleotides may be employed as probes for the polynucleotides of SEQ ID NOS:1 and 3, for example, for recovery of the polynucleotide or as a diagnostic probe or as a PCR primer.

Thus, the present invention is directed to polynucleotides having at least a 70% identity, preferably at least 90% identity and more preferably at least a 95% identity to a polynucleotide which encodes either the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, or the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, as well as fragments thereof, which fragments have at least 15 bases, preferably at least 30 bases, more preferably at least 50 bases and most preferably fragments having up to at least 150 bases or

greater, which fragments are at least 90% identical, preferably at least 95% identical and most preferably at least 97% identical to any portion of a polynucleotide of the present invention.

The deposit(s) referred to herein will be maintained under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Micro-organisms for purposes of Patent Procedure. These deposits are provided merely as convenience to those of skill in the art and are not an admission that a deposit is required under 35 U.S.C. §112. The sequence of the polynucleotides contained in the deposited materials, as well as the amino acid sequence of the polypeptides encoded thereby, are incorporated herein by reference and are controlling in the event of any conflict with any description of sequences herein. A license may be required to make, use or sell the deposited materials, and no such license is hereby granted.

The present invention further relates to polypeptides which have the deduced amino acid sequences of Figures 1 A-C, 3A, and 3B (SEQ ID NOS:2 and 4, respectively) as well as fragments, analogs and derivatives of such polypeptides.

The terms "fragment," "derivative," and "analog" when referring to (a) the polypeptide of Figures 1A-1C (SEQ ID NO:2) or that encoded by the deposited cDNA, or (b) the polypeptide of Figures 3A and 3B (SEQ ID NO:4), means a polypeptide which either retains substantially the same biological function or activity as such polypeptide, *i.e.*, functions as a G-protein coupled receptor, or retains the ability to bind the ligand or the receptor even though the polypeptide does not function as a G-protein coupled receptor, for example, a soluble form of the receptor.

The polypeptide of the present invention may be a recombinant polypeptide, a natural polypeptide or a synthetic polypeptide, preferably a recombinant polypeptide.

The fragment, derivative or analog of either (a) the polypeptide of Figures 1A-1C (SEQ ID NO:2) or that encoded by the deposited cDNA, (b) the polypeptide of Figures 3A and 3B (SEQ ID NO:4) may be (I) one in which one or more of the amino acid residues are substituted with a conserved or non-conserved amino acid residue (preferably a conserved amino acid residue) and

such substituted amino acid residue may or may not be one encoded by the genetic code, or (ii) one in which one or more of the amino acid residues includes a substituent group, or (iii) one in which the mature polypeptide is fused with another compound, such as a compound to increase the half-life of the polypeptide (for example, polyethylene glycol), or (iv) one in which the additional amino acids are fused to the mature polypeptide, or (v) one in which a fragment of the polypeptide is soluble, *i.e.*, not membrane bound, yet still binds ligands to the membrane bound receptor. Such fragments, derivatives and analogs are deemed to be within the scope of those skilled in the art from the teachings herein.

The polypeptides and polynucleotides of the present invention are preferably provided in an isolated form, and preferably are purified to homogeneity.

The term "isolated" means that the material is removed from its original environment (*e.g.*, the natural environment if it is naturally occurring). For example, a naturally-occurring polynucleotide or polypeptide present in a living animal is not isolated, but the same polynucleotide or polypeptide, separated from some or all of the coexisting materials in the natural system, is isolated. Such polynucleotides could be part of a vector and/or such polynucleotides or polypeptides could be part of a composition, and still be isolated in that such vector or composition is not part of its natural environment.

The polypeptides of the present invention include the polypeptides of SEQ ID NOS:2 and 4 (in particular the respective mature polypeptides) as well as polypeptides which have at least 70% similarity (preferably at least a 70% identity) to either the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 and more preferably at least a 90% similarity (more preferably at least a 90% identity) to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or of SEQ ID NO:4 and still more preferably at least a 95% similarity (still more preferably a 90% identity) to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or of SEQ ID NO:4 and also include portions of such polypeptides with such portion of the polypeptide generally containing at least 30 amino acids and more preferably at least 50 amino acids.

As known in the art "similarity" between two polypeptides is determined by comparing the amino acid sequence and its conserved amino acid substitutes of one polypeptide to the sequence of a second polypeptide.

Fragments or portions of the polypeptides of the present invention may be employed for producing the corresponding full-length polypeptide by peptide synthesis; therefore, the fragments may be employed as intermediates for producing the full-length polypeptides. Fragments or portions of the polynucleotides of the present invention may be used to synthesize full-length polynucleotides of the present invention.

The present invention also relates to a method for identifying and/or isolating cells, tissues, or classes of cells or tissues, by utilizing probes of the polynucleotides that encode the EBI-2 G-protein coupled receptor polypeptide or by utilizing an antibody specific for the EBI-2 G-protein coupled receptor, for example. Since the EBI-2 G-protein coupled receptor polypeptides according to the invention occur in vein endothelial cells, neutrophil leukocyte cells, and corpus colosum cells, the above probes or antibodies, for example, may be utilized to identify and/or isolate such cells, tissues or classes of cells or tissues.

The present invention further relates to a method for identifying and/or isolating cells, tissues, or classes of cells or tissues, by utilizing probes of the polynucleotides that encode the EDG-1-like G-protein coupled receptor polypeptide or by utilizing an antibody specific for the EDG-1-like G-protein coupled receptor polypeptide, for example. Since the EDG-1-like G-protein coupled receptor polypeptides according to the invention occur in leukocyte, tonsil, placenta, thymus, lung, and pancreas tissue, the above probes or antibodies, for example, may be utilized to identify and/or isolate such cells, tissues or classes of cells or tissues.

The present invention also relates to vectors which include polynucleotides of the present invention, host cells which are genetically engineered with vectors of the invention and the production of polypeptides of the invention by recombinant techniques.

Host cells are genetically engineered (transduced or transformed or transfected) with the vectors of this invention which may be, for example, a

cloning vector or an expression vector. The vector may be, for example, in the form of a plasmid, a viral particle, a phage, etc. The engineered host cells can be cultured in conventional nutrient media modified as appropriate for activating promoters, selecting transformants or amplifying the G-protein coupled receptor genes. The culture conditions, such as temperature, pH and the like, are those previously used with the host cell selected for expression, and will be apparent to the ordinarily skilled artisan.

The polynucleotides of the present invention may be employed for producing polypeptides by recombinant techniques. Thus, for example, the polynucleotide may be included in any one of a variety of expression vectors for expressing a polypeptide. Such vectors include chromosomal, nonchromosomal and synthetic DNA sequences, e.g., derivatives of SV40; bacterial plasmids; phage DNA; baculovirus; yeast plasmids; vectors derived from combinations of plasmids and phage DNA, viral DNA such as vaccinia, adenovirus, fowl pox virus, and pseudorabies. However, any other vector may be used as long as it is replicable and viable in the host.

The appropriate DNA sequence may be inserted into the vector by a variety of procedures. In general, the DNA sequence is inserted into an appropriate restriction endonuclease site(s) by procedures known in the art. Such procedures and others are deemed to be within the scope of those skilled in the art.

The DNA sequence in the expression vector is operatively linked to an appropriate expression control sequence(s) (promoter) to direct mRNA synthesis. As representative examples of such promoters, there may be mentioned: LTR or SV40 promoter, the *E. coli*. *lac* or *trp*, the phage lambda P_L promoter and other promoters known to control expression of genes in prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells or their viruses. The expression vector also contains a ribosome binding site for translation initiation and a transcription terminator. The vector may also include appropriate sequences for amplifying expression.

In addition, the expression vectors preferably contain one or more selectable marker genes to provide a phenotypic trait for selection of transformed

host cells such as dihydrofolate reductase or neomycin resistance for eukaryotic cell culture, or such as tetracycline or ampicillin resistance in *E. coli*.

The vector containing the appropriate DNA sequence as hereinabove described, as well as an appropriate promoter or control sequence, may be employed to transform an appropriate host to permit the host to express the protein.

As representative examples of appropriate hosts, there may be mentioned: bacterial cells, such as *E. coli*, *Streptomyces*, and *Salmonella typhimurium*; fungal cells, such as yeast; insect cells such as *Drosophila S2* and *Spodoptera Sf9*; animal cells such as CHO, Cos or Bowes melanoma; adenoviruses; plant cells, etc. The selection of an appropriate host is deemed to be within the scope of those skilled in the art from the teachings herein.

More particularly, the present invention also includes recombinant constructs comprising one or more of the sequences as broadly described above. The constructs comprise a vector, such as a plasmid or viral vector, into which a sequence of the invention has been inserted, in a forward or reverse orientation. In a preferred aspect of this embodiment, the construct further comprises regulatory sequences, including, for example, a promoter, operably linked to the sequence. Large numbers of suitable vectors and promoters are known to those of skill in the art, and are commercially available. The following vectors are provided by way of example. Bacterial: pQE70, pQE60, pQE-9 (Qiagen), pbs, pD10, phagescript, φX174, pbluescript SK, pbsks, pNH8A, pNH16a, pNH18A, pNH46A (Stratagene); ptrc99a, pKK223-3, pKK233-3, pDR540, pRIT5 (Pharmacia). Eukaryotic: pWLNEO, pSV2CAT, pOG44, pXT1, pSG (Stratagene) pSVY3, pBPV, pMSG, pSVL (Pharmacia). However, any other plasmid or vector may be used as long as they are replicable and viable in the host.

Promoter regions can be selected from any desired gene using CAT (chloramphenicol transferase) vectors or other vectors with selectable markers. Two appropriate vectors are PKK232-8 and PCM7. Particular named bacterial promoters include *lacI*, *lacZ*, T3, T7, gpt, lambda P_R, P_L and *trp*. Eukaryotic promoters include CMV immediate early, HSV thymidine kinase, early and late

SV40, LTRs from retrovirus, and mouse metallothionein-I. Selection of the appropriate vector and promoter is well within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

In a further embodiment, the present invention relates to host cells containing the above-described constructs. The host cell can be a higher eukaryotic cell, such as a mammalian cell, or a lower eukaryotic cell, such as a yeast cell, or the host cell can be a prokaryotic cell, such as a bacterial cell. Introduction of the construct into the host cell can be effected by calcium phosphate transfection, DEAE-Dextran mediated transfection, or electroporation. (Davis, L., *et al.*, *Basic Methods in Molecular Biology*, (1986)).

The constructs in host cells can be used in a conventional manner to produce the gene product encoded by the recombinant sequence. Alternatively, the polypeptides of the invention can be synthetically produced by conventional peptide synthesizers.

Mature proteins can be expressed in mammalian cells, yeast, bacteria, or other cells under the control of appropriate promoters. Cell-free translation systems can also be employed to produce such proteins using RNAs derived from the DNA constructs of the present invention. Appropriate cloning and expression vectors for use with prokaryotic and eukaryotic hosts are described by Sambrook *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Second Edition*, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., (1989), the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Transcription of the DNA encoding the polypeptides of the present invention by higher eukaryotes is increased by inserting an enhancer sequence into the vector. Enhancers are cis-acting elements of DNA, usually about from 10 to 300 bp that act on a promoter to increase its transcription. Examples including the SV40 enhancer on the late side of the replication origin bp 100 to 270, a cytomegalovirus early promoter enhancer, the polyoma enhancer on the late side of the replication origin, and adenovirus enhancers.

Generally, recombinant expression vectors will include origins of replication and selectable markers permitting transformation of the host cell, e.g., the ampicillin resistance gene of *E. coli* and *S. cerevisiae* TRP1 gene, and a promoter derived from a highly-expressed gene to direct transcription of a downstream structural sequence. Such promoters can be derived from operons

encoding glycolytic enzymes such as 3-phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK), α -factor, acid phosphatase, or heat shock proteins, among others. The heterologous structural sequence is assembled in appropriate phase with translation initiation and termination sequences, and preferably, a leader sequence capable of directing secretion of translated protein into the periplasmic space or extracellular medium. Optionally, the heterologous sequence can encode a fusion protein including an N-terminal identification peptide imparting desired characteristics, e.g., stabilization or simplified purification of expressed recombinant product.

Useful expression vectors for bacterial use are constructed by inserting a structural DNA sequence encoding a desired protein together with suitable translation initiation and termination signals in operable reading phase with a functional promoter. The vector will comprise one or more phenotypic selectable markers and an origin of replication to ensure maintenance of the vector and to, if desirable, provide amplification within the host. Suitable prokaryotic hosts for transformation include *E. coli*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Salmonella typhimurium* and various species within the genera *Pseudomonas*, *Streptomyces*, and *Staphylococcus*, although others may also be employed as a matter of choice.

As a representative but nonlimiting example, useful expression vectors for bacterial use can comprise a selectable marker and bacterial origin of replication derived from commercially available plasmids comprising genetic elements of the well known cloning vector pBR322 (ATCC 37017). Such commercial vectors include, for example, pKK223-3 (Pharmacia Fine Chemicals, Uppsala, Sweden) and pGEM1 (Promega Biotec, Madison, WI, USA). These pBR322 "backbone" sections are combined with an appropriate promoter and the structural sequence to be expressed.

Following transformation of a suitable host strain and growth of the host strain to an appropriate cell density, the selected promoter is induced by appropriate means (e.g., temperature shift or chemical induction) and cells are cultured for an additional period.

Cells are typically harvested by centrifugation, disrupted by physical or chemical means, and the resulting crude extract retained for further purification.

Microbial cells employed in expression of proteins can be disrupted by any convenient method, including freeze-thaw cycling, sonication, mechanical disruption, or use of cell lysing agents, such methods are well known to those skilled in the art.

Various mammalian cell culture systems can also be employed to express recombinant protein. Examples of mammalian expression systems include the COS-7 lines of monkey kidney fibroblasts, described by Gluzman, *Cell* 23:175 (1981), and other cell lines capable of expressing a compatible vector, for example, the C127, 3T3, CHO, HeLa and BHK cell lines. Mammalian expression vectors will comprise an origin of replication, a suitable promoter and enhancer, and also any necessary ribosome binding sites, polyadenylation site, splice donor and acceptor sites, transcriptional termination sequences, and 5' flanking nontranscribed sequences. DNA sequences derived from the SV40 splice, and polyadenylation sites may be used to provide the required nontranscribed genetic elements.

The G-protein coupled receptor polypeptides can be recovered and purified from recombinant cell cultures by methods including ammonium sulfate or ethanol precipitation, acid extraction, anion or cation exchange chromatography, phosphocellulose chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, affinity chromatography, hydroxylapatite chromatography and lectin chromatography. Protein refolding steps can be used, as necessary, in completing configuration of the mature protein. Finally, high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) can be employed for final purification steps.

The polypeptides of the present invention may be a naturally purified product, or a product of chemical synthetic procedures, or produced by recombinant techniques from a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host (for example, by bacterial, yeast, higher plant, insect and mammalian cells in culture). Depending upon the host employed in a recombinant production procedure, the polypeptides of the present invention may be glycosylated or may be non-glycosylated. Polypeptides of the invention may also include an initial methionine amino acid residue.

The G-protein coupled receptor of the present invention may be employed in a process for screening for antagonists and/or agonists for the receptor.

In general, such screening procedures involve providing appropriate cells which express the receptor on the surface thereof. In particular, a polynucleotide encoding the receptor of the present invention is employed to transfect cells to thereby express the G-protein coupled receptor. Such transfection may be accomplished by procedures as hereinabove described.

One such screening procedure involves the use of the melanophores which are transfected to express the G-protein coupled receptor of the present invention. Such a screening technique is described in PCT WO 92/01810 published February 6, 1992.

Thus, for example, such assay may be employed for screening for a receptor antagonist by contacting the melanophore cells which encode the G-protein coupled receptor with both the receptor ligand and a compound to be screened. Inhibition of the signal generated by the ligand indicates that a compound is a potential antagonist for the receptor, *i.e.*, inhibits activation of the receptor.

The screen may be employed for determining an agonist by contacting such cells with compounds to be screened and determining whether such compound generates a signal, *i.e.*, activates the receptor.

Other screening techniques include the use of cells which express the G-protein coupled receptor (for example, transfected CHO cells) in a system which measures extracellular pH changes caused by receptor activation, for example, as described in Parce *et al.*, *Science* 246:243-247 (1989). For example, potential agonists or antagonists may be contacted with a cell which expresses the G-protein coupled receptor and a second messenger response, *e.g.*, signal transduction or pH changes, may be measured to determine whether the potential agonist or antagonist is effective.

Another such screening technique involves introducing RNA encoding the G-protein coupled receptor into *Xenopus* oocytes to transiently express the receptor. The receptor oocyte may then be contacted in the case of antagonist

screening with the receptor ligand and a compound to be screened, followed by detection of inhibition of a calcium signal.

Another screening technique involves expressing the G-protein coupled receptor in which the receptor is linked to a phospholipase C or D. As representative examples of such cells, there may be mentioned endothelial cells, smooth muscle cells, embryonic kidney cells, etc. The screening for an antagonist or agonist may be accomplished as hereinabove described by detecting activation of the receptor or inhibition of activation of the receptor from the phospholipase second signal.

Another method involves screening for antagonists by determining inhibition of binding of labeled ligand to cells which have the receptor on the surface thereof. Such a method involves transfecting a eukaryotic cell with DNA encoding the G-protein coupled receptor such that the cell expresses the receptor on its surface and contacting the cell with a potential antagonist in the presence of a labeled form of a known ligand. The ligand can be labeled, *e.g.*, by radioactivity. The amount of labeled ligand bound to the receptors is measured, *e.g.*, by measuring radioactivity of the receptors. If the potential antagonist binds to the receptor as determined by a reduction of labeled ligand which binds to the receptors, the binding of labeled ligand to the receptor is inhibited.

The present invention also provides a method for determining whether a ligand not known to be capable of binding to a G-protein coupled receptor can bind to such receptor which comprises contacting a mammalian cell which expresses a G-protein coupled receptor with the ligand under conditions permitting binding of ligands to the G-protein coupled receptor, detecting the presence of a ligand which binds to the receptor and thereby determining whether the ligand binds to the G-protein coupled receptor. The systems hereinabove described for determining agonists and/or antagonists may also be employed for determining ligands which bind to the receptor.

In general, antagonists for G-protein coupled receptors which are determined by screening procedures may be employed for a variety of therapeutic purposes. For example, such antagonists have been employed for treatment of hypertension, angina pectoris, myocardial infarction, ulcers, asthma, allergies,

psychoses, depression, migraine, vomiting, stroke, eating disorders, migraine headaches, cancer and benign prostatic hypertrophy.

Agonists for G-protein coupled receptors are also useful for therapeutic purposes, such as the treatment of asthma, Parkinson's disease, acute heart failure, hypotension, urinary retention, and osteoporosis.

Examples of G-protein coupled receptor antagonists include an antibody, or in some cases an oligonucleotide, which binds to the G-protein coupled receptor but does not elicit a second messenger response such that the activity of the G-protein coupled receptor is prevented. Antibodies include anti-idiotypic antibodies which recognize unique determinants generally associated with the antigen-binding site of an antibody. Potential antagonists also include proteins which are closely related to the ligand of the G-protein coupled receptor, *i.e.*, a fragment of the ligand, which has lost biological function and when binding to the G-protein coupled receptor, elicit no response.

A potential antagonist also includes an antisense construct prepared through the use of antisense technology. Antisense technology can be used to control gene expression through triple-helix formation or antisense DNA or RNA, both of which methods are based on binding of a polynucleotide to DNA or RNA. For example, the 5' coding portion of the polynucleotide sequence, which encodes for the mature polypeptides of the present invention, is used to design an antisense RNA oligonucleotide of from about 10 to 40 base pairs in length. A DNA oligonucleotide is designed to be complementary to a region of the gene involved in transcription (triple-helix *see* Lee *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 6:3073 (1979); Cooney *et al.*, *Science* 241:456 (1988); and Dervan *et al.*, *Science* 251: 1360 (1991)), thereby preventing transcription and the production of G-protein coupled receptor. The antisense RNA oligonucleotide hybridizes to the mRNA *in vivo* and blocks translation of the mRNA molecule into the G-protein coupled receptor (antisense - Okano, *J. Neurochem.* 56:560 (1991) ; Oligodeoxynucleotides as Antisense Inhibitors of Gene Expression, CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL (1988)). The oligonucleotides described above can also be delivered to cells such that the antisense RNA or DNA may be expressed *in vivo* to inhibit production of G-protein coupled receptor.

Another potential antagonist is a small molecule which binds to the G-protein coupled receptor, making it inaccessible to ligands such that normal biological activity is prevented. Examples of small molecules include but are not limited to small peptides or peptide-like molecules.

Potential antagonists also include a soluble form of a G-protein coupled receptor, *e.g.*, a fragment of the receptor, which binds to the ligand and prevents the ligand from interacting with membrane bound G-protein coupled receptors.

The G-protein coupled receptor and antagonists or agonists may be employed in combination with a suitable pharmaceutical carrier. Such compositions comprise a therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient. Such a carrier includes but is not limited to saline, buffered saline, dextrose, water, glycerol, ethanol, and combinations thereof. The formulation should suit the mode of administration.

The invention also provides a pharmaceutical pack or kit comprising one or more containers filled with one or more of the ingredients of the pharmaceutical compositions of the invention. Associated with such container(s) can be a notice in the form prescribed by a governmental agency regulating the manufacture, use or sale of pharmaceuticals or biological products, which notice reflects approval by the agency of manufacture, use or sale for human administration. In addition, the pharmaceutical compositions may be employed in conjunction with other therapeutic compounds.

The pharmaceutical compositions may be administered in a convenient manner such as by the topical, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intranasal or intradermal routes. The pharmaceutical compositions are administered in an amount which is effective for treating and/or prophylaxis of the specific indication. In general, the pharmaceutical compositions will be administered in an amount of at least about 10 µg/kg body weight and in most cases they will be administered in an amount not in excess of about 8 mg/kg body weight per day. In most cases, the dosage is from about 10 µg/kg to about 1 mg/kg body weight daily, taking into account the routes of administration, symptoms, etc.

The G-protein coupled receptor polypeptides and antagonists or agonists which are polypeptides, may be employed in accordance with the present invention by expression of such polypeptides *in vivo*, which is often referred to as "gene therapy."

Thus, for example, cells from a patient may be engineered with a polynucleotide (DNA or RNA) encoding a polypeptide *ex vivo*, with the engineered cells then being provided to a patient to be treated with the polypeptide. Such methods are well known in the art. For example, cells may be engineered by procedures known in the art by use of a retroviral particle containing RNA encoding a polypeptide of the present invention.

Similarly, cells may be engineered *in vivo* for expression of a polypeptide *in vivo* by, for example, procedures known in the art. As known in the art, a producer cell for producing a retroviral particle containing RNA encoding the polypeptide of the present invention may be administered to a patient for engineering cells *in vivo* and expression of the polypeptide *in vivo*. These and other methods for administering a polypeptide of the present invention by such method should be apparent to those skilled in the art from the teachings of the present invention. For example, the expression vehicle for engineering cells may be other than a retrovirus, for example, an adenovirus which may be used to engineer cells *in vivo* after combination with a suitable delivery vehicle.

Retroviruses from which the retroviral plasmid vectors hereinabove mentioned may be derived include, but are not limited to, Moloney Murine Leukemia Virus, spleen necrosis virus, retroviruses such as Rous Sarcoma Virus, Harvey Sarcoma Virus, avian leukosis virus, gibbon ape leukemia virus, human immunodeficiency virus, adenovirus, Myeloproliferative Sarcoma Virus, and mammary tumor virus. In one embodiment, the retroviral plasmid vector is derived from Moloney Murine Leukemia Virus.

The vector includes one or more promoters. Suitable promoters which may be employed include, but are not limited to, the retroviral LTR; the SV40 promoter; and the human cytomegalovirus (CMV) promoter described in Miller, *et al.*, *BioTechniques* 7:980-990 (1989), or any other promoter (*e.g.*, cellular promoters such as eukaryotic cellular promoters including, but not limited to, the

histone, pol III, and β -actin promoters). Other viral promoters which may be employed include, but are not limited to, adenovirus promoters, thymidine kinase (TK) promoters, and B19 parvovirus promoters. The selection of a suitable promoter will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the teachings contained herein.

The nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of the present invention is under the control of a suitable promoter. Suitable promoters which may be employed include, but are not limited to, adenoviral promoters, such as the adenoviral major late promoter; or heterologous promoters, such as the cytomegalovirus (CMV) promoter; the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) promoter; inducible promoters, such as the MMT promoter, the metallothionein promoter; heat shock promoters; the albumin promoter; the ApoAI promoter; human globin promoters; viral thymidine kinase promoters, such as the Herpes Simplex thymidine kinase promoter; retroviral LTRs (including the modified retroviral LTRs hereinabove described); the β -actin promoter; and human growth hormone promoters. The promoter also may be the native promoter which controls the gene encoding the polypeptide.

The retroviral plasmid vector is employed to transduce packaging cell lines to form producer cell lines. Examples of packaging cells which may be transfected include, but are not limited to, the PE501, PA317, ψ -2, ψ -AM, PA12, T19-14X, VT-19-17-H2, ψ CRE, ψ CRIP, GP+E-86, GP+envAm12, and DAN cell lines as described in Miller, *Human Gene Therapy* 1:5-14 (1990), which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. The vector may transduce the packaging cells through any means known in the art. Such means include, but are not limited to, electroporation, the use of liposomes, and CaPO₄ precipitation. In one alternative, the retroviral plasmid vector may be encapsulated into a liposome, or coupled to a lipid, and then administered to a host.

The producer cell line generates infectious retroviral vector particles which include the nucleic acid sequence(s) encoding the polypeptides. Such retroviral vector particles then may be employed, to transduce eukaryotic cells, either *in vitro* or *in vivo*. The transduced eukaryotic cells will express the nucleic acid sequence(s) encoding the polypeptide. Eukaryotic cells which may be transduced

include, but are not limited to, embryonic stem cells, embryonic carcinoma cells, as well as hematopoietic stem cells, hepatocytes, fibroblasts, myoblasts, keratinocytes, endothelial cells, and bronchial epithelial cells.

G-protein coupled receptors are ubiquitous in the mammalian host and are responsible for many biological functions, including many pathologies. Accordingly, it is desirous to find compounds which stimulate a G-protein coupled receptor and compounds which antagonize a G-protein coupled receptor.

This invention further provides a method of identifying compounds which specifically interact with, and bind to, the human G-protein coupled receptors on the surface of a cell which comprises contacting a mammalian cell comprising an isolated DNA molecule encoding the G-protein coupled receptor with a plurality of compounds, determining those which bind to the mammalian cell, and thereby identifying compounds which specifically interact with and bind to a human G-protein coupled receptor of the present invention.

This invention also provides a method of detecting expression of the G-protein coupled receptor on the surface of a cell by detecting the presence of mRNA coding for a G-protein coupled receptor which comprises obtaining total mRNA from the cell and contacting the mRNA so obtained with a nucleic acid probe comprising a nucleic acid molecule of at least 15 nucleotides capable of specifically hybridizing with a sequence included within the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a human G-protein coupled receptor under hybridizing conditions, detecting the presence of mRNA hybridized to the probe, and thereby detecting the expression of the G-protein coupled receptor by the cell.

This invention is also related to the use of the G-protein coupled receptor gene as part of a diagnostic assay for detecting diseases or susceptibility to diseases related to the presence of mutated G-protein coupled receptor genes. Such diseases are related to cell transformation, such as tumors and cancers.

Individuals carrying mutations in the human G-protein coupled receptor gene may be detected at the DNA level by a variety of techniques. Nucleic acids for diagnosis may be obtained from a patient's cells, such as from blood, urine, saliva, tissue biopsy, and autopsy material. The genomic DNA may be used directly for detection or may be amplified enzymatically by using PCR (Saiki *et al.*,

Nature 324:163-166 (1986)) prior to analysis. RNA or cDNA may also be used for the same purpose. As an example, PCR primers complementary to the nucleic acid encoding the G-protein coupled receptor protein can be used to identify and analyze G-protein coupled receptor mutations. For example, deletions and insertions can be detected by a change in size of the amplified product in comparison to the normal genotype. Point mutations can be identified by hybridizing amplified DNA to radiolabeled G-protein coupled receptor RNA or alternatively, radiolabeled G-protein coupled receptor antisense DNA sequences. Perfectly matched sequences can be distinguished from mismatched duplexes by RNase A digestion or by differences in melting temperatures.

Genetic testing based on DNA sequence differences may be achieved by detection of alteration in electrophoretic mobility of DNA fragments in gels with or without denaturing agents. Small sequence deletions and insertions can be visualized by high resolution gel electrophoresis. DNA fragments of different sequences may be distinguished on denaturing formamide gradient gels in which the mobilities of different DNA fragments are retarded in the gel at different positions according to their specific melting or partial melting temperatures (see, e.g., Myers *et al.*, *Science* 230:1242 (1985)).

Sequence changes at specific locations may also be revealed by nuclease protection assays, such as RNase and S1 protection or the chemical cleavage method (e.g., Cotton *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:4397-4401 (1985)).

Thus, the detection of a specific DNA sequence may be achieved by methods such as hybridization, RNase protection, chemical cleavage, direct DNA sequencing or the use of restriction enzymes, (e.g., Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphisms (RFLP)) and Southern blotting of genomic DNA.

In addition to more conventional gel-electrophoresis and DNA sequencing, mutations can also be detected by *in situ* analysis.

The present invention also relates to a diagnostic assay for detecting altered levels of soluble forms of the receptor polypeptides of the present invention in various tissues. Assays used to detect levels of the soluble receptor polypeptides in a sample derived from a host are well known to those of skill in

the art and include radioimmunoassays, competitive-binding assays, Western blot analysis and preferably as ELISA assay.

An ELISA assay initially comprises preparing an antibody specific to antigens of the G-protein coupled receptor polypeptides, preferably a monoclonal antibody. In addition a reporter antibody is prepared against the monoclonal antibody. To the reporter antibody is attached a detectable reagent such as radioactivity, fluorescence or in this example a horseradish peroxidase enzyme. A sample is now removed from a host and incubated on a solid support, *e.g.*, a polystyrene dish, that binds the proteins in the sample. Any free protein binding sites on the dish are then covered by incubating with a non-specific protein such as bovine serum albumin. Next the monoclonal antibody is incubated in the dish during which time the monoclonal antibodies attach to any G-protein coupled receptor proteins attached to the polystyrene dish. All unbound monoclonal antibody is washed out with buffer. The reporter antibody linked to horseradish peroxidase is now placed in the dish resulting in binding of the reporter antibody to any monoclonal antibody bound to G-protein receptor proteins. Unattached reporter antibody is then washed out. Peroxidase substrates are then added to the dish and the amount of color developed in a given time period is a measurement of the amount of G-protein coupled receptor proteins present in a given volume of patient sample when compared against a standard curve.

The sequences of the present invention are also valuable for chromosome identification. The sequence is specifically targeted to and can hybridize with a particular location on an individual human chromosome. Moreover, there is a current need for identifying particular sites on the chromosome. Few chromosome marking reagents based on actual sequence data (repeat polymorphisms) are presently available for marking chromosomal location. The mapping of DNAs to chromosomes according to the present invention is an important first step in correlating those sequences with genes associated with disease.

Briefly, sequences can be mapped to chromosomes by preparing PCR primers (preferably 15-25 bp) from the cDNA. Computer analysis of the 3' untranslated region is used to rapidly select primers that do not span more than one exon in the genomic DNA, thus complicating the amplification process.

These primers are then used for PCR screening of somatic cell hybrids containing individual human chromosomes. Only those hybrids containing the human gene corresponding to the primer will yield an amplified fragment.

PCR mapping of somatic cell hybrids is a rapid procedure for assigning a particular DNA to a particular chromosome. Using the present invention with the same oligonucleotide primers, sublocalization can be achieved with panels of fragments from specific chromosomes or pools of large genomic clones in an analogous manner. Other mapping strategies that can similarly be used to map to its chromosome include *in situ* hybridization, prescreening with labeled flow-sorted chromosomes and preselection by hybridization to construct chromosome specific-cDNA libraries.

Fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (FISH) of a cDNA clone to a metaphase chromosomal spread can be used to provide a precise chromosomal location in one step. This technique can be used with cDNA as short as 50 or 60 bases. For a review of this technique, see Verma *et al.*, *Human Chromosomes: a Manual of Basic Techniques*, Pergamon Press, New York (1988).

Once a sequence has been mapped to a precise chromosomal location, the physical position of the sequence on the chromosome can be correlated with genetic map data. Such data are found, for example, in McKusick, V., *Mendelian Inheritance in Man* (available on line through Johns Hopkins University Welch Medical Library). The relationship between genes and diseases that have been mapped to the same chromosomal region are then identified through linkage analysis (coinheritance of physically adjacent genes).

Next, it is necessary to determine the differences in the cDNA or genomic sequence between affected and unaffected individuals. If a mutation is observed in some or all of the affected individuals but not in any normal individuals, then the mutation is likely to be the causative agent of the disease.

With current resolution of physical mapping and genetic mapping techniques, a cDNA precisely localized to a chromosomal region associated with the disease could be one of between 50 and 500 potential causative genes. (This assumes 1 (one) megabase mapping resolution and one gene per 20 kb).

The polypeptides, their fragments or other derivatives, or analogs thereof, or cells expressing them can be used as an immunogen to produce antibodies thereto. These antibodies can be, for example, polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies. The present invention also includes chimeric, single chain, and humanized antibodies, as well as Fab fragments, or the product of an Fab expression library. Various procedures known in the art may be used for the production of such antibodies and fragments.

Antibodies generated against the polypeptides corresponding to a sequence of the present invention can be obtained by direct injection of the polypeptides into an animal or by administering the polypeptides to an animal, preferably a nonhuman. The antibody so obtained will then bind the polypeptides itself. In this manner, even a sequence encoding only a fragment of the polypeptides can be used to generate antibodies binding the whole native polypeptides. Such antibodies can then be used to isolate the polypeptide from tissue expressing that polypeptide.

For preparation of monoclonal antibodies, any technique which provides antibodies produced by continuous cell line cultures can be used. Examples include the hybridoma technique (Kohler and Milstein, *Nature* 256:495-497 (1975)), the trioma technique, the human B-cell hybridoma technique (Kozbor *et al.*, *Immunology Today* 4:72 (1983)), and the EBV-hybridoma technique to produce human monoclonal antibodies (Cole, *et al.*, in *Monoclonal Antibodies and Cancer Therapy*, Alan R. Liss, Inc., pp. 77-96 (1985)).

Techniques described for the production of single chain antibodies (U.S. Patent 4,946,778) can be adapted to produce single chain antibodies to immunogenic polypeptide products of this invention. Also, transgenic mice may be used to express humanized antibodies to immunogenic polypeptide products of this invention.

The present invention will be further described with reference to the following examples; however, it is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to such examples. All parts or amounts, unless otherwise specified, are by weight.

In order to facilitate understanding of the following examples certain frequently occurring methods and/or terms will be described.

"Plasmids" are designated by a lower case p preceded and/or followed by capital letters and/or numbers. The starting plasmids herein are either commercially available, publicly available on an unrestricted basis, or can be constructed from available plasmids in accord with published procedures. In addition, equivalent plasmids to those described are known in the art and will be apparent to the ordinarily skilled artisan.

"Digestion" of DNA refers to catalytic cleavage of the DNA with a restriction enzyme that acts only at certain sequences in the DNA. The various restriction enzymes used herein are commercially available and their reaction conditions, cofactors and other requirements were used as would be known to the ordinarily skilled artisan. For analytical purposes, typically 1 μ g of plasmid or DNA fragment is used with about 2 units of enzyme in about 20 μ l of buffer solution. For the purpose of isolating DNA fragments for plasmid construction, typically 5 to 50 μ g of DNA are digested with 20 to 250 units of enzyme in a larger volume. Appropriate buffers and substrate amounts for particular restriction enzymes are specified by the manufacturer. Incubation times of about 1 hour at 37°C are ordinarily used, but may vary in accordance with the supplier's instructions. After digestion the reaction is electrophoresed directly on a polyacrylamide gel to isolate the desired fragment.

Size separation of the cleaved fragments is performed using 8 percent polyacrylamide gel described by Goeddel, D. *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 8:4057 (1980).

"Oligonucleotides" refers to either a single stranded polydeoxynucleotide or two complementary polydeoxynucleotide strands which may be chemically synthesized. Such synthetic oligonucleotides have no 5' phosphate and thus will not ligate to another oligonucleotide without adding a phosphate with an ATP in the presence of a kinase. A synthetic oligonucleotide will ligate to a fragment that has not been dephosphorylated.

"Ligation" refers to the process of forming phosphodiester bonds between two double stranded nucleic acid fragments Sambrook *et al.*, *ibid.* Unless

otherwise provided, ligation may be accomplished using known buffers and conditions with 10 units to T4 DNA ligase ("ligase") per 0.5 µg of approximately equimolar amounts of the DNA fragments to be ligated.

Unless otherwise stated, transformation was performed as described in the method of Graham, F. and Van der Eb, A., *Virology* 52:456-457 (1973).

Example 1

Bacterial Expression and Purification of EBI-2

The DNA sequence encoding EBI-2, ATCC #209003, is initially amplified using PCR oligonucleotide primers corresponding to the 5' sequences of the processed EBI-2 protein (minus the signal peptide sequence) and the vector sequences 3' to the EBI-2 gene. Additional nucleotides corresponding to EBI-2 were added to the 5' and 3' sequences respectively. The 5' oligonucleotide primer has the sequence 5' CCGAGGATCCATGCAAGCCGTCGACAAT 3' (SEQ ID NO:5) contains a BamHI restriction enzyme site followed by 18 nucleotides of the EBI-2 coding sequence starting from the presumed terminal amino acid of the processed protein codon. The 3' sequence 5' CCGAGGATCCTTACATTGGAGTCTCTTC 3' (SEQ ID NO:6) contains complementary sequences to BamHI site and is followed by 18 nucleotides of EBI-2. The restriction enzyme sites correspond to the restriction enzyme sites on the bacterial expression vector pQE-60 (Qiagen, Inc., Chatsworth, CA, 91311). pQE-60 encodes antibiotic resistance (Amp^r), a bacterial origin of replication (ori), an IPTG-regulatable promoter operator (P/O), a ribosome binding site (RBS), a 6-His tag and restriction enzyme sites. pQE-60 was then digested with BamHI. The amplified sequences were ligated into pQE-60 and were inserted in frame with the sequence encoding for the histidine tag and the RBS. The ligation mixture was then used to transform *E. coli* strain M15/rep 4 (Qiagen, Inc.) by the procedure described in Sambrook, J. *et al.*, *ibid.* M15/rep4 contains multiple copies of the plasmid pREP4, which expresses the *lacI* repressor and also confers kanamycin resistance (Kan^r). Transformants are identified by their ability to grow on LB plates, and ampicillin/kanamycin resistant colonies were selected. Plasmid DNA was isolated and confirmed by restriction analysis. Clones containing the

desired constructs were grown overnight (O/N) in liquid culture in LB media supplemented with both Amp (100 µg/ml) and Kan (25 µg/ml). The O/N culture is used to inoculate a large culture at a ratio of 1:100 to 1:250. The cells were grown to an optical density 600 (O.D.₆₀₀) of between 0.4 and 0.6. IPTG ("Isopropyl-B-D-thiogalactopyranoside") was then added to a final concentration of 1 mM. IPTG induces by inactivating the *lacI* repressor, clearing the P/O leading to increased gene expression. Cells were grown an extra 3 to 4 hours. Cells were then harvested by centrifugation. The cell pellet was solubilized in the chaotropic agent 6 Molar Guanidine HC1. After clarification, solubilized EBI-2 was purified from this solution by chromatography on a Nickel-Chelate column under conditions that allow for tight binding by proteins containing the 6-His tag (Hochuli, E., et al., *J. Chromatography* 411:177-184 (1984)). EBI-2 (95%) pure was eluted from the column in 6 molar guanidine HC1 pH 5.0 and for the purpose of renaturation adjusted to 3 molar guanidine HC1, 100mM sodium phosphate, 10 mM glutathione (reduced) and 2 mM glutathione (oxidized). After incubation in this solution for 12 hours the protein was dialyzed to 10 mM sodium phosphate.

Example 2

Cloning and Expression of EBI-2 Using the Baculovirus Expression System

The DNA sequence encoding the full length EBI-2 protein, ATCC #209003, was amplified using PCR oligonucleotide primers corresponding to the 5' and 3' sequences of the gene:

The 5' primer has the sequence 5' CCGAGGATCCGCC **ATCATGCAAGCCGTCGACAAT** 3' (SEQ ID NO:7) and contains a BamHI restriction enzyme site (in bold) followed by 6 nucleotides resembling an efficient signal for the initiation of translation in eukaryotic cells (Kozak, M., *J. Mol. Biol.*, 196:947-950 (1987)) which is just behind the first 18 nucleotides of the EBI-2 gene (the initiation codon for translation "ATG" is underlined).

The 3' primer has the sequence 5' CCGAGGATCCTTACA-TTGGAGTCTCTTC 3' (SEQ ID NO: 8) and contains the cleavage site for the restriction endonuclease BamHI and 18 nucleotides complementary to the 3' translated sequence of the extracellular part of EBI-2. The amplified sequences

were isolated from a 1% agarose gel using a commercially available kit ("Geneclean," BIO 101 Inc., La Jolla, Ca.). The fragment was then digested with the endonucleases BamHI, and purified again on a 1% agarose gel. This fragment is designated F2.

The vector pA2 (modification of pVL941 vector, discussed below) is used for the expression of the EBI-2 protein using the baculovirus expression system (for review see: Summers, M.D. and Smith, G.E., *A manual of methods for baculovirus vectors and insect cell culture procedures*, Texas Agricultural Experimental Station Bulletin No. 1555 (1987)). This expression vector contains the strong polyhedrin promoter of the *Autographa californica* nuclear polyhedrosis virus (AcMNPV) followed by the recognition sites for the restriction endonucleases BamHI. The polyadenylation site of the simian virus SV40 is used for efficient polyadenylation. For an easy selection of recombinant virus the beta-galactosidase gene from *E.coli* is inserted in the same orientation as the polyhedrin promoter followed by the polyadenylation signal of the polyhedrin gene. The polyhedrin sequences are flanked at both sides by viral sequences for the cell-mediated homologous recombination of co-transfected wild-type viral DNA. Many other baculovirus vectors could be used in place of pA2 such as pRG1 and pA2 -GP in which case the 5' primer are changed accordingly, and pAc373, pVL941 and pAcIM1 (Luckow, V.A. and Summers, M.D., *Virology* 170:31-39).

The plasmid was digested with the restriction enzyme BamHI and then dephosphorylated using calf intestinal phosphatase by procedures known in the art. The DNA was then isolated from a 1% agarose gel using the commercially available kit ("Geneclean" BIO 101 Inc., La Jolla, Ca.). This vector DNA is designated V2.

Fragment F2 and the dephosphorylated plasmid V2 were ligated with T4 DNA ligase. *E.coli* HB101 cells were then transformed and bacteria identified that contained the plasmid (pBacEBI-2) with the EBI-2 gene using the enzyme BamHI. The sequence of the cloned fragment was confirmed by DNA sequencing.

5 µg of the plasmid pBacEBI-2 was co-transfected with 1.0 µg of a commercially available linearized baculovirus ("BaculoGold™ baculovirus DNA",

Pharmingen, San Diego, CA.) using the lipofection method (Felgner *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 84:7413-7417 (1987)).

1 µg of BaculoGold™ virus DNA and 5 µg of the plasmid pBacEBI-2 were mixed in a sterile well of a microtiter plate containing 50 µl of serum free Grace's medium (Life Technologies Inc., Gaithersburg, MD). Afterwards 10 µl Lipofectin plus 90 µl Grace's medium were added, mixed and incubated for 15 minutes at room temperature. Then the transfection mixture was added drop-wise to the Sf9 insect cells (ATCC CRL 1711) seeded in a 35 mm tissue culture plate with 1 ml Grace's medium without serum. The plate was rocked back and forth to mix the newly added solution. The plate was then incubated for 5 hours at 27°C. After 5 hours the transfection solution was removed from the plate and 1 ml of Grace's insect medium supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum (FBS) was added. The plate was put back into an incubator and cultivation continued at 27°C for four days.

After four days the supernatant was collected and a plaque assay performed similar as described by Summers and Smith (*supra*). As a modification an agarose gel with "Bluo-gal" (Life Technologies Inc., Gaithersburg) was used which allows an easy isolation of blue stained plaques. (A detailed description of a "plaque assay" can also be found in the user's guide for insect cell culture and baculovirology distributed by Life Technologies Inc., Gaithersburg, page 9-10).

Four days after the serial dilution, the virus was added to the cells and blue stained plaques were picked with the tip of an Eppendorf pipette. The agar containing the recombinant viruses was then resuspended in an Eppendorf tube containing 200 µl of Grace's medium. The agar was removed by a brief centrifugation and the supernatant containing the recombinant baculovirus was used to infect Sf9 cells seeded in 35 mm dishes. Four days later the supernatants of these culture dishes were harvested and then stored at 4°C.

Sf9 cells were grown in Grace's medium supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated FBS. The cells were infected with the recombinant baculovirus V-EBI-2 at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 2. Six hours later the medium was removed and replaced with SF900 II medium minus methionine and cysteine (Life Technologies Inc., Gaithersburg). 42 hours later 5 µCi of ³⁵S-methionine and 5

μ Ci 35 S cysteine (Amersham) were added. The cells were further incubated for 16 hours before they were harvested by centrifugation and the labeled proteins visualized by SDS-PAGE and autoradiography.

Example 3

Expression of Recombinant EBI-2 in COS cells

The expression of plasmid, EBI-2 HA is derived from a vector pcDNAI/Amp (Invitrogen) containing: 1) SV40 origin of replication, 2) ampicillin resistance gene, 3) *E.coli* replication origin, 4) CMV promoter followed by a polylinker region, an SV40 intron, and polyadenylation site. A DNA fragment encoding the entire EBI-2 precursor and a HA tag fused in frame to its 3' end was cloned into the polylinker region of the vector, therefore, the recombinant protein expression is directed under the CMV promoter. The HA tag corresponds to an epitope derived from the influenza hemagglutinin protein as previously described (Wilson, I., et al., *Cell* 37:767 (1984)). The fusion of HA tag to the target protein allows easy detection of the recombinant protein with an antibody that recognizes the HA epitope.

The plasmid construction strategy is described as follows:

The DNA sequence encoding EBI-2, ATCC #209003, was constructed by PCR using two primers: the 5' primer 5' CCGAGGGATCCGCCA-TCATGCAAGCCGTCGACAAT 3' (SEQ ID NO:9) contains a BamHI site followed by EBI-2 coding sequence starting from the initiation codon; the 3' sequence 5' CCGATCTAGATTAATCCCATACGACGTCCCAGACTACGC-TCATTGGAGTCTCTTC 3' (SEQ ID NO:10) contains complementary sequences to XbaI site, translation stop codon, HA tag and EBI-2 coding sequence (not including the stop codon). Therefore, the PCR product contains a BamHI site, EBI-2 coding sequence followed by HA tag fused in frame, a translation termination stop codon next to the HA tag, and an XbaI site. The PCR amplified DNA fragment and the vector, pcDNAI/Amp, were digested with BamHI and XbaI restriction enzyme and ligated. The ligation mixture was transformed into *E. coli* strain SURE (available from Stratagene Cloning Systems, 11099 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037) the transformed culture was plated on

ampicillin media plates and resistant colonies were selected. Plasmid DNA was isolated from transformants and examined by restriction analysis for the presence of the correct fragment. For expression of the recombinant EBI-2, COS cells were transfected with the expression vector by DEAE-DEXTRAN method (Sambrook, J., *et al.*, *ibid.*). The expression of the EBI-2 HA protein was detected by radiolabelling and immunoprecipitation method (Harlow, E., and Lane, D., *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, (1988)). Cells were labelled for 8 hours with ^{35}S -cysteine two days post transfection. Culture media was then collected and cells were lysed with detergent (RIPA buffer (150 mM NaCl, 0.1% SDS, 1% NP-40, 0.5% DOC, 50mM Tris, pH 7.5) (Wilson, I. *et al.*, *Id.* 37:767 (1984))). Both cell lysate and culture media were precipitated with an HA specific monoclonal antibody. Proteins precipitated were analyzed on 15% SDS-PAGE gels.

Example 4

Expression via Gene Therapy

Fibroblasts are obtained from a subject by skin biopsy. The resulting tissue is placed in tissue-culture medium and separated into small pieces. Small chunks of the tissue are placed on a wet surface of a tissue culture flask, approximately ten pieces are placed in each flask. The flask is turned upside down, closed tight and left at room temperature over night. After 24 hours at room temperature, the flask is inverted and the chunks of tissue remain fixed to the bottom of the flask and fresh media (*e.g.*, Ham's F12 media, with 10% FBS, penicillin and streptomycin, is added). This is then incubated at 37°C for approximately one week. At this time, fresh media is added and subsequently changed every several days. After an additional two weeks in culture, a monolayer of fibroblasts emerge. The monolayer is trypsinized and scaled into larger flasks.

pMV-7 (Kirschmeier, P.T., *et al.*, *DNA* 7:219-225 (1988)) flanked by the long terminal repeats of the Moloney murine sarcoma virus, is digested with EcoRI and HindIII and subsequently treated with calf intestinal phosphatase. The linear vector is fractionated on agarose gel and purified, using glass beads.

The cDNA encoding a polypeptide of the present invention is amplified using PCR primers which correspond to the 5' and 3' end sequences respectively. The 5' primer containing an EcoRI site and the 3' primer further includes a HindIII site. Equal quantities of the Moloney murine sarcoma virus linear backbone and the amplified EcoRI and HindIII fragment are added together, in the presence of T4 DNA ligase. The resulting mixture is maintained under conditions appropriate for ligation of the two fragments. The ligation mixture is used to transform bacteria HB101, which are then plated onto agar-containing kanamycin for the purpose of confirming that the vector had the gene of interest properly inserted.

The amphotropic pA317 or GP+aml2 packaging cells are grown in tissue culture to confluent density in Dulbecco's Modified Eagles Medium (DMEM) with 10% calf serum (CS), penicillin and streptomycin. The MSV vector containing the gene is then added to the media and the packaging cells are transduced with the vector. The packaging cells now produce infectious viral particles containing the gene (the packaging cells are now referred to as producer cells).

Fresh media is added to the transduced producer cells, and subsequently, the media is harvested from a 10 cm plate of confluent producer cells. The spent media, containing the infectious viral particles, is filtered through a millipore filter to remove detached producer cells and this media is then used to infect fibroblast cells. Media is removed from a sub-confluent plate of fibroblasts and quickly replaced with the media from the producer cells. This media is removed and replaced with fresh media. If the titer of virus is high, then virtually all fibroblasts will be infected and no selection is required. If the titer is very low, then it is necessary to use a retroviral vector that has a selectable marker, such as neo or his.

The engineered fibroblasts are then injected into the host, either alone or after having been grown to confluence on cytodex 3 microcarrier beads. The fibroblasts now produce the protein product.

Example 5

Bacterial Expression and Purification of EDG-1-Like Polypeptide

The DNA sequence encoding EDG-1-like polypeptide, ATCC #209004, is initially amplified using PCR oligonucleotide primers corresponding to the 5' sequences of the processed EDG-1-like polypeptide protein (minus the signal peptide sequence) and the vector sequences 3' to the EDG-1-like polypeptide gene. Additional nucleotides corresponding to EDG-1-like sequence were added to the 5' and 3' sequences respectively. The 5' oligonucleotide primer has the sequence 5' CCGAGGATCCATGAACGCCACGGGGACC 3' (SEQ ID NO:11) contains a BamHI restriction enzyme site followed by 18 nucleotides of the EDG-1-like polypeptide coding sequence starting from the presumed terminal amino acid of the processed protein codon. The 3' sequence 5' CCGAGGATCCTCAGATGCTCCGCACGCT 3' (SEQ ID NO:12) contains complementary sequences to BamHI site and is followed by 18 nucleotides of EDG-1-like polypeptide. The restriction enzyme sites correspond to the restriction enzyme sites on the bacterial expression vector pQE-60 (Qiagen, Inc., Chatsworth, CA, 91311). pQE-60 encodes antibiotic resistance (Amp^r), a bacterial origin of replication (ori), an IPTG-regulatable promoter operator (P/O), a ribosome binding site (RBS), a 6-His tag and restriction enzyme sites. pQE-60 was then digested with BamHI. The amplified sequences were ligated into pQE-60 and were inserted in frame with the sequence encoding for the histidine tag and the RBS. The ligation mixture was then used to transform *E. coli* strain M15/rep 4 (Qiagen, Inc.) by the procedure described in Sambrook, J., et al., *ibid.* M15/rep4 contains multiple copies of the plasmid pREP4, which expresses the lacI repressor and also confers kanamycin resistance (Kan^r). Transformants are identified by their ability to grow on LB plates and ampicillin/kanamycin resistant colonies were selected. Plasmid DNA was isolated and confirmed by restriction analysis. Clones containing the desired constructs were grown overnight (O/N) in liquid culture in LB media supplemented with both Amp (100 µg/ml) and Kan (25 µg/ml). The O/N culture is used to inoculate a large culture at a ratio of 1:100 to 1:250. The cells were grown to an optical density 600 (O.D.₆₀₀) of between 0.4 and 0.6. IPTG ("Isopropyl-B-D-thiogalactopyranoside") was then added to a final concentration of 1 mM. IPTG induces by inactivating the lacI repressor, clearing the P/O leading to increased gene expression. Cells were grown an extra

3 to 4 hours. Cells were then harvested by centrifugation. The cell pellet was solubilized in the chaotropic agent 6 Molar Guanidine HC1. After clarification, solubilized EDG-1-like protein was purified from this solution by chromatography on a Nickel-Chelate column under conditions that allow for tight binding by proteins containing the 6-His tag (Hochuli, E., *et al.*, *J. Chromatography* 411:177-184 (1984)). EDG-1-like protein (95% pure) was eluted from the column in 6 molar guanidine HC1 pH 5.0 and for the purpose of renaturation adjusted to 3 molar guanidine HC1, 100mM sodium phosphate, 10 mM glutathione (reduced) and 2 mM glutathione (oxidized). After incubation in this solution for 12 hours the protein was dialyzed to 10 mM sodium phosphate.

Example 6

Cloning and Expression of EDG-1-like Poly-Peptide Using the Baculovirus Expression System

The DNA sequence encoding the full length EDG-1-like polypeptide protein, ATCC #209004, was amplified using PCR oligonucleotide primers corresponding to the 5' and 3' sequences of the gene:

The 5' primer has the sequence 5' GCGAGGATCCGCCATATGAA-CGCCACGGGGACC 3' (SEQ ID NO:13) and contains a BamHI restriction enzyme site (in bold) followed by 6 nucleotides resembling an efficient signal for the initiation of translation in eukaryotic cells (Kozak, M., *J. Mol. Biol.* 196:947-950 (1987)) which is just behind the first 18 nucleotides of the EDG-1-like polypeptide gene (the initiation codon for translation "ATG" is underlined).

The 3' primer has the sequence 5' CCGAGGATCCTCAGATGCTCC-GCACGCT 3' (SEQ ID NO:14) and contains the cleavage site for the restriction endonuclease BamHI and 18 nucleotides complementary to the 3' translated sequence of the extracellular part of EDG-1-like polypeptide. The amplified sequences were isolated from a 1% agarose gel using a commercially available kit ("Geneclean," BIO 101 Inc., La Jolla, Ca.). The fragment was then digested with the endonucleases BamHI, and purified again on a 1% agarose gel. This fragment is designated F2.

The vector pA2 (modification of pVL941 vector, discussed below) is used for the expression of the EDG-1-like polypeptide protein using the baculovirus expression system (for review see: Summers, M.D. and Smith, G.E., *A manual of methods for baculovirus vectors and insect cell culture procedures*, Texas Agricultural Experimental Station Bulletin No. 1555 (1987)). This expression vector contains the strong polyhedrin promoter of the *Autographa californica* nuclear polyhedrosis virus (AcMNPV) followed by the recognition sites for the restriction endonucleases BamHI. The polyadenylation site of the simian virus SV40 is used for efficient polyadenylation. For an easy selection of recombinant virus the beta-galactosidase gene from *E.coli* is inserted in the same orientation as the polyhedrin promoter followed by the polyadenylation signal of the polyhedrin gene. The polyhedrin sequences are flanked at both sides by viral sequences for the cell-mediated homologous recombination of co-transfected wild-type viral DNA. Many other baculovirus vectors could be used in place of pA2 such as pRG1 and pA2-GP in which case the 5' primer are changed accordingly, and pAc373, pVL941 and pAcIM1 (Luckow, V.A. and Summers, M.D., *Virology* 170:31-39).

The plasmid was digested with the restriction enzyme BamHI and then dephosphorylated using calf intestinal phosphatase by procedures known in the art. The DNA was then isolated from a 1% agarose gel using the commercially available kit ("Geneclean" BIO 101 Inc., La Jolla, Ca.) This vector DNA is designated V2.

Fragment F2 and the dephosphorylated plasmid V2 were ligated with T4 DNA ligase. *E.coli* HB101 cells were then transformed and bacteria identified that contained the plasmid (pBacEDG-1-like polypeptide) with the EDG-1-like polypeptide gene using the enzyme BamHI. The sequence of the cloned fragment was confirmed by DNA sequencing.

5 µg of the plasmid pBacEDG-1-like polypeptide was co-transfected with 1.0 µg of a commercially available linearize baculovirus ("BaculoGold™ baculovirus DNA", Pharmingen, San Diego, CA.) using the lipofection method (Felgner *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 84:7413-7417 (1987)).

1 μ g of BaculoGold™ virus DNA and 5 μ g of the plasmid pBacEDG-1-like polypeptide were mixed in a sterile well of a microtiter plate containing 50 μ l of serum free Grace's medium (Life Technologies Inc., Gaithersburg, MD). Afterwards 10 μ l Lipofectin plus 90 μ l Grace's medium were added, mixed and incubated for 15 minutes at room temperature. Then the transfection mixture was added drop-wise to the Sf9 insect cells (ATCC CRL 1711) seeded in a 35 mm tissue culture plate with 1 ml Grace's medium without serum. The plate was rocked back and forth to mix the newly added solution. The plate was then incubated for 5 hours at 27°C. After 5 hours the transfection solution was removed from the plate and 1 ml of Grace's insect medium supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum was added. The plate was put back into an incubator and cultivation continued at 27°C for four days.

After four days the supernatant was collected and a plaque assay performed similar as described by Summers and Smith (*supra*). As a modification an agarose gel with "Bluo-gal" (Life Technologies Inc., Gaithersburg) was used which allows an easy isolation of blue stained plaques. (A detailed description of a "plaque assay" can also be found in the user's guide for insect cell culture and baculovirology distributed by Life Technologies Inc., Gaithersburg, page 9-10).

Four days after the serial dilution, the virus was added to the cells and blue stained plaques were picked with the tip of an Eppendorf pipette. The agar containing the recombinant viruses was then resuspended in an Eppendorf tube containing 200 μ l of Grace's medium. The agar was removed by a brief centrifugation and the supernatant containing the recombinant baculovirus was used to infect Sf9 cells seeded in 35 mm dishes. Four days later the supernatants of these culture dishes were harvested and then stored at 4°C.

Sf9 cells were grown in Grace's medium supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated FBS. The cells were infected with the recombinant baculovirus V-EDG-1-like polypeptide at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 2. Six hours later the medium was removed and replaced with SF900 II medium minus methionine and cysteine (Life Technologies Inc., Gaithersburg). 42 hours later 5 μ Ci of 35 S-methionine and 5 μ Ci 35 S cysteine (Amersham) were added. The cells were

further incubated for 16 hours before they were harvested by centrifugation and the labelled proteins visualized by SDS-PAGE and autoradiography.

Example 7

Expression of Recombinant EDG-1-like Polypeptide in COS Cells

The expression of plasmid, EDG-1-like polypeptide HA is derived from a vector pcDNA1/Amp (Invitrogen) containing: 1) SV40 origin of replication, 2) ampicillin resistance gene, 3) *E. coli* replication origin, 4) CMV promoter followed by a polylinker region, an SV40 intron and polyadenylation site. A DNA fragment encoding the entire EDG-1-like polypeptide precursor and a HA tag fused in frame to its 3' end was cloned into the polylinker region of the vector, therefore, the recombinant protein expression is directed under the CMV promoter. The HA tag corresponds to an epitope derived from the influenza hemagglutinin protein as previously described. The fusion of HA tag to the target protein allows easy detection of the recombinant protein with an antibody that recognizes the HA epitope.

The plasmid construction strategy is described as follows:

The DNA sequence encoding EDG-1-like polypeptide, ATCC #209004, was constructed by PCR using two primers: the 5' primer 5' CCGAGGATC-CGCCATCATGAACGCCACGGGGACC 3' (SEQ ID NO:15) contains a BamHI site followed by EDG-1-like polypeptide coding sequence starting from the initiation codon; the 3' sequence 5' CCGATCTAGATCAATCCCATACT-ACGTCCCAGACTACGCTGATGCTCCGACGCT 3' (SEQ ID NO:16) contains complementary sequences to XbaI site, translation stop codon, HA tag and EDG-1-like polypeptide coding sequence (not including the stop codon). Therefore, the PCR product contains a BamHI site, EDG-1-like polypeptide coding sequence followed by HA tag fused in frame, a translation termination stop codon next to the HA tag, and an XbaI site. The PCR amplified DNA fragment and the vector, pcDNA1/Amp, were digested with BamHI and XbaI restriction enzyme and ligated. The ligation mixture was transformed into *E. coli* strain SURE (available from Stratagene Cloning Systems, 11099 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037) the transformed culture was plated on ampicillin media

plates and resistant colonies were selected. Plasmid DNA was isolated from transformants and examined by restriction analysis for the presence of the correct fragment. For expression of the recombinant EDG-1-like polypeptide COS cells were transfected with the expression vector by DEAE-DEXTRAN method. The expression of the EDG-1-like polypeptide HA protein was detected by radiolabelling and immunoprecipitation method. Cells were labelled for 8 hours with 35 S-cysteine two days post transfection. Culture media was then collected and cells were lysed with detergent (RIPA buffer). Both cell lysate and culture media were precipitated with an HA specific monoclonal antibody. Proteins precipitated were analyzed on 15% SDS-PAGE gels.

Example 8

Expression via Gene Therapy

Fibroblasts are obtained from a subject by skin biopsy. The resulting tissue is placed in tissue-culture medium and separated into small pieces. Small chunks of the tissue are placed on a wet surface of a tissue culture flask, approximately ten pieces are placed in each flask. The flask is turned upside down, closed tight and left at room temperature over night. After 24 hours at room temperature, the flask is inverted and the chunks of tissue remain fixed to the bottom of the flask and fresh media (e.g., Ham's F12 media, with 10% FBS, penicillin and streptomycin, is added. This is then incubated at 37°C for approximately one week. At this time, fresh media is added and subsequently changed every several days. After an additional two weeks in culture, a monolayer of fibroblasts emerge. The monolayer is trypsinized and scaled into larger-flasks.

pMV-7 flanked by the long terminal repeats of the Moloney murine sarcoma virus, is digested with EcoRI and HindIII and subsequently treated with calf intestinal phosphatase. The linear vector is fractionated on agarose gel and purified, using glass beads.

The cDNA encoding a polypeptide of the present invention is amplified using PCR primers which correspond to the 5' and 3' end sequences respectively. The 5' primer containing an EcoRI site and the 3' primer further includes a HindIII site. Equal quantities of the Moloney murine sarcoma virus linear backbone and

the amplified EcoRI and HindIII fragment are added together, in the presence of T4 DNA ligase. The resulting mixture is maintained under conditions appropriate for ligation of the two fragments. The ligation mixture is used to transform bacteria HB101, which are then plated onto agar-containing kanamycin for the purpose of confirming that the vector had the gene of interest properly inserted.

The amphotropic pA317 or GP+aml2 packaging cells are grown in tissue culture to confluent density in DMEM with 10% calf serum (CS), penicillin and streptomycin. The MSV vector containing the gene is then added to the media and the packaging cells are transduced with the vector. The packaging cells now produce infectious viral particles containing the gene (the packaging cells are now referred to as producer cells).

Fresh media is added to the transduced producer cells, and subsequently, the media is harvested from a 10 cm plate of confluent producer cells. The spent media, containing the infectious viral particles, is filtered through a millipore filter to remove detached producer cells and this media is then used to infect fibroblast cells. Media is removed from a sub-confluent plate of fibroblasts and quickly replaced with the media from the producer cells. This media is removed and replaced with fresh media. If the titer of virus is high, then virtually all fibroblasts will be infected and no selection is required. If the titer is very low, then it is necessary to use a retroviral vector that has a selectable marker, such as neo or his.

The engineered fibroblasts are then injected into the host, either alone or after having been grown to confluence on cytodex 3 microcarrier beads. The fibroblasts now produce the protein product.

Numerous modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings and, therefore, within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as particularly described.